

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held in the Board Room, 625 Plum Street, Vineland, New Jersey, Wednesday, September 9, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. English presiding and the following members present: Ms. Codispoti, Mr. DeWinne, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. Jennings, Ms. Morello, Mr. Pagano and Ms. Rios. Absent: Ms. Acosta arrived at 6:03 p.m.

Also present: Dr. Gruccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frey and Mr. Frangipani, Assistant Superintendents, Mrs. Haley, Board Secretary, Dr. Rossi, Executive Director of Personnel, Mr. DeSanto, Solicitor, press and public. Absent: None.

Mr. English announced that in compliance with the New Jersey meeting law commonly referred to as "The Sunshine Law," the Vineland Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be sent to the following, announcing time and place thereof, agenda, etc.: The Daily Journal, The Grapevine, the Atlantic City Press, Clerk - City of Vineland, and Administrative Office Public Bulletin Board.

Flag Salute:

Resolution:

Mrs. Haley read a resolution to convene into executive session for the following reasons as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10-4-12. Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting. The nature of discussion is an administrator's job performance. Any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Education hereby declares that its discussion of the aforementioned subject(s) may be made public at a time when the Board Attorney advises the Board of Education that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the School District or any other entity or person with respect to said discussion.

Motion:

Upon motion by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. DiGiorgio, the resolution was passed. All Members voted "yes".

Special

Presentation (s): Dr. Guccio introduced Ms. Nancy Hollenweger, Supervisor of Language Arts, to honor a Vineland High School Teacher.

Ms. Hollenweger said tonight she is honored to be a part of recognizing Ms. Vanessa Rasmussen for her outstanding contributions and leadership in the field of Language Arts. She said Ms. Rasmussen is the English Department Chair at Vineland High School South and teaches Advanced Placement Language and Composition Course. Ms. Hollenweger honored and thanked Ms. Rasmussen for being an outstanding representative of the district at the Advanced Placement Conference in Austin Texas.

Ms. Rasmussen thanked the Board for allowing her to attend the conference in Texas, which was a great professional opportunity.

Dr. Guccio introduced Mr. John Provenzano, Director of Security, to honor a security guard.

Mr. Provenzano thanked the Board for giving him the opportunity to honor one of his security guards for an outstanding job that he did last week. He said Eddie Santiago was on night patrol when he was dispatched to Max Leuchter School at 3:30 a.m. for an alarm. When he arrived at the school there was an individual in the principal's office burglarizing it. Mr. Santiago chased the suspect who jumped out the window and helped the police apprehend him.

Dr. Guccio introduced Mr. Nathan Frey, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, to present the Consolidated Monitoring Report and Corrective Action Plan.

Mr. Frey explained that the district goes through monitoring because the state wants to make sure that we are meeting our objectives and following all regulations for appropriately spending funds based on all our title grants. He said this process is about helping us and we will not lose funding. Mr. Frey said the state has no intentions of taking any money from the district and presented a few examples of the findings.

Mr. Jennings asked if we were trying to spend the money the best way possible to educate the students and made a few errors along the way. Mr. Frey said you can classify them as errors.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked when the last monitoring was. Mr. Frey said this is the first time since he has been in the district. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if the monitoring is scheduled with advanced notice. Mr. Frey responded yes. Mr. DiGiorgio asked how we did in the past with the monitoring. Mr. Frey said he can pull the data. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if the examples Mr. Frey chose to speak about were the minor findings. Mr. Frey said they were all minor.

Ms. Morello asked if the findings that have financial ramifications were a wash. Mr. Frey said correct. Ms. Morello asked when money has to come out of a school's budget as in finding #3 does it impact the 2015-2016 school year. Mr. Frey said absolutely. Ms. Morello asked where the money came from to pay those salaries. Mr. Scott Musterel, Assistant Business Administrator, explained that it was a minimal amount of money that was taken out of Ms. Negrin's, the Bilingual Supervisor, EIP money. Ms. Morello asked if the reason we have Title I is because of the poor performance of students for a variety of reasons. Mr. Musterel said Title I money is based on low income students and you apply the money how it is needed for instruction. Ms. Morello asked if the policies have changed. Mr. Frey said yes but there is no change in the No Child Left Behind policies and we have not had a formal adoption of these policies. Ms. Morello asked why this was not done when we adopt policies every year. Mr. DeSanto said every year at reorganization we re-adopt our current policies and bylaws. He said unless you change any one of them they remain in effect the entire year. Mr. DeSanto said all we are doing is reaffirming what we did in January. Ms. Morello asked if the re-adoption will go into someone's tickler file for next August. Mr. Frey said it already is. Ms. Morello asked when the last time was that the district had a grant manager. Mr. Frey said 2012. Ms. Morello hopes that all of these corrective actions are in place and things tighten up.

Dr. Gruccio said on for discussion at the Personnel & Policy Committee meeting is putting a grant person in place to oversee all this.

Mr. DeWinne said an auditor will always find something because they need to validate their job. He asked out of our current operational budget how much money have we set aside to cover all of these findings in general. Mr. Musterel said there was no money set aside for potential audit findings. Mr. DeWinne asked how much money will come out of our operating expenditures. Mr. Musterel said around \$25,000 total.

Ms. Acosta said she has concerns in regards to our district's ability to be able to comply with all of the special education findings and actions taken. She asked Ms. Teri Godlewski, Special Education Director, to explain the child study team referral process. Ms. Godlewski explained the referral process. Mr. English asked if we can add this to next month's agenda to go into more detail. Ms. Morello said she added this to the Curriculum & Instruction Committee meeting agenda to discuss.

Mr. English thanked Mr. Frey for the Power Point presentation.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. Donnie Robbins, Athletic Director, to recognize a coach.

Mr. Robbins thanked Dr. Gruccio and the Board for continuing to honor our student athletes, teams and coaches. He said last fall Mr. Joel Heider, Vineland High School Girls Cross Country Coach, received a \$500 award for Most Inspiring Coach. Mr. Robbins introduced Coach Heider.

Mr. Heider said it was an honor to be nominated and to be a Vineland Coach.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. DiGiorgio, the minutes were approved from July 8, 2015. All Members voted "yes" except Mr. DiGiorgio, Ms. Morello and Ms. Rios who "abstained."

Solicitor's Report: None.

Public Comment on  
Agenda Items: None.

Recommendations:

Proposed for review or discussion or adoption by Board Members:

**Role of Board Committees**

Mr. English said it is important that each committee chair understands what the whole committee structure is about. Mr. English said because of the time tonight is this something that can be discussed at the October meeting. Mr. DeSanto said he has materials from NJ School Boards that he was going to distribute after the presentation. He said that he also completely revised the bylaw on committees. Mr. DeSanto said the one discrepancy that he found from what NJ School Boards absolutely recommends is that the duties and responsibilities of each committee is not spelled out anywhere. He said he would like to distribute the proposed revision of the bylaw along with the materials for each Board members review. Mr. DeSanto said maybe this can be discussed at the next committee meeting that each person is on and then sent to Policy & Personnel.

Dr. Gruccio asked if the Role of Board Committee presentation should be put on the October agenda. Mr. English said yes.

Approval of Bills:

Upon motion by Mr. DeWinne, seconded by Ms. Morello, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” except Ms. Morello who voted “yes” to everything except the catered food bills she voted “no.”(\$8,009,034.97).

Ms. Morello said Mr. Frey gave her some clarification on the Verizon bills and there is going to be an audit of the phone lines. Mr. Frey said every line in the district will be reviewed.

Proposed discussion by Ms. Morello:

**Update on the Budget Process**

Ms. Morello requested a thumbnail sketch of what the shortfall may be for 2016-2017, what direction the district is going in, areas that can be run more efficiently and a proposal to increase taxes. She said there is a difference between what you need and what you want.

Dr. Gruccio said the audit began today and by October we should have a good idea as to what money we could carry over into the next budget. She said in October we will be having a variety of discussions and she will keep the Board abreast.

Mr. DeWinne said we are not anticipating a Finance Committee meeting anytime soon because nothing is pending per Mrs. Haley. He said what is expected from Mrs. Haley and her team is to get the census for the employees that we are projecting with the increases based on the VEA Agreement. Mr. DeWinne said one thing that is unknown is our insurance, which renews the beginning of next year and is open for competition. He said as far as funding goes the numbers that are expected will be flat funding. Mr. DeWinne said there will be cuts because of flat funding with increases.

Mr. English thanked Ms. Morello for bringing this up because people need to know exactly what is happening. He is pushing for the budget as a whole theory and to be as transparent as possible.

Ms. Morello said we have a sizable amount of students that we pay for who do not attend our schools. She asked that all committees start thinking about what we do as a district to promote ourselves so we keep the students who are leaving for the technology schools.

Emergent Item(s)  
(with prior approval)

None.

Public:

None.

Board Member  
Remarks:

Ms. Acosta thanked the administrators for putting together an explanation on the Consolidated Monitoring Reports. She believes we have the most committed group of teachers, principals, administrators, and aides. Ms. Acosta wished all of the student's good luck this year and to take the opportunity to learn and grow.

Mr. DeWinne thanked the staff members who attend each Board meeting. He announced that Friday the Vineland High School band will have its first performance at Gittone Stadium and urged everyone to attend the football game.

Mr. Jennings apologized to the students and parents for any inconveniences they had with the start of school.

Mr. Pagano wished all the students and staff a happy prosperous year.

Ms. Morello echoed Mr. Pagano’s sentiments and hopes our students are resilient and take advantage of all the resources they have. She wished all staff members a great year and to stay healthy.

Ms. Codispoti congratulated Mr. Heider, Ms. Rasmussen and Mr. Santiago on a job well done. She wished all students, teachers and staff a very productive, happy, healthy, school year.

Ms. Rios welcomed employees, students, parents and volunteers to the 2015-2016 school year. She hopes all the students are eager to learn and embrace the educational experience that is being provided to them. Ms. Rios congratulated Ms. Rasmussen, Mr. Santiago and Mr. Heider.

Dr. Gruccio thanked everyone in the district for all their hard work in making our schools ready to open. She wished all students a wonderful productive year. Dr. Gruccio said this year we saved between \$110,000 to \$114,000 on the summer hours, which is an increase from last year. She said we are ranked second in the state with the Safe School videos that we use to train our staff. Dr. Gruccio extended sympathy to the family of Marianne Cotto who was a bus driver with the district for over 26 years and passed away a few days ago.

Report/Remarks by  
Board President:

Mr. English said he wants everyone to do their best in following the chain of command. He said when you get to the top and still do not receive your answer the Board members are here to listen. Mr. English wished everyone the best of luck on the start of the school year and thanked everyone who put in the extra hours over the summer to get us ready for the start of the school year. Mr. English wished the best of luck to our fall sports teams, clubs and activities.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. DeWinne, seconded by Ms. Codispoti, to adjourn the meeting by voice vote at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helen G. Haley  
Board Secretary

HGH:dt





